



NEWS RELEASE

DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE

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For External Release

Former Newark Resident Receives VP Gore's Hammer Award

Jim Pitt, a former Newark resident and 1980 graduate of Newark High School, will receive a Hammer Award on June 12 for his work with a system that allows federal employees to change and update their pay information.

Pitt, currently employed with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Arlington, Va., represented the Department of Defense on a board with 35 other federal agencies to review the Employee Express (EE). EE saved taxpayers over \$650,000 the first year. When used throughout the federal government, it is expected the savings could top \$13 million per year.

EE lets employees update their address, make federal and state withholding changes, set up or change direct deposit for paychecks, start, stop or change financial allotments, make federal health benefits and thrift savings changes and purchase savings bonds. Employees can make these changes using touch-tone telephones, kiosk or the Internet. Prior to the creation of EE, everything was done using paper. The EE system saves time for employees and saves money for the government.

Pitt's involvement also included work on a special security group that was concerned with keeping private information private while using Internet and phone capabilities.

Pitt's experience with EE helped DFAS in evolving our own version — Employee/Member Self Service System (E/MSS).

The Hammer Award that Pitt will receive is an award created as part of Vice President Al Gore's National Performance Review, a commitment to innovation in government.

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